

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 130367

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TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 130367

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC

SUBJECT: IREX AND DEAK CASE

REF: STATE 129089, BUDAPEST 1559, OSLO 2396

1. GYORGY PETER OF KKI, ACCOMPANIED BY KOLESZA OF HUNGARIAN EMBASSY, CALLED ON USIA (SHIRLEY)(USIA MEMCON WILL BE POUCHED), AND DEPARTMENT (RICHMOND AND TITUS) ON JUNE 18. ON BOTH CALLS PETER NOTED THAT EXCHANGES WERE MOVING AHEAD EVEN WITHOUT EXCHANGES AGREEMENT. HE HAD NO INFORMATION AS TO WHEN HUNGARIAN COMMENTS ON US DRAFT AGREEMENT WOULD BE PRESENTED. AT DEPARTMENT PETER REFERRED TO QUESTION OF ANNUAL PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES WHICH WOULD BE SEPARATE FROM BUT RELATED TO EXCHANGES AGREEMENT. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH AN ANNUAL PROGRAM COULD BE EITHER WRITTEN OR UNWRITTEN"AGREEMENT" BETWEEN US AND HUNGARIAN SIDES.

2. ON BOTH CALLS PETER PROFESSED IGNORANCE OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN DEAK CASE. DEPTOFFS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER RECENT INCIDENT AND HOPE THAT IT WOULD NOT AFFECT FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF US-HUNGARIAN EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES WHICH APPEAR TO BE PROGRESSING FAVORABLY. IN THIS CONTEXT REFERENCE WAS MADE TO HUNGARIANS WHO HAVE BEEN IN US THIS YEAR UNDER VARIOUS CU PROGRAMS. DEPTOFFS NOTED HOWEVER THAT IREX IS PRIVATE ORGANIZATION, AND WHILE WE DO
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 130367

NOT KNOW WHAT THEIR POSITION WILL BE, WE HOPE RECENT DEAK

INCIDENT WILL NOT CAUSE US ACADEMIC COMMUNITY TO LOSE

INTEREST IN EXCHANGES WITH HUNGARY. PETER IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH IREX IN NEW YORK JUNE 19.

3. FOLLOWING PETER'S CALL, KASSOF AND MATUSZEWSKI OF IREX MET WITH RICHMOND AND TITUS. KASSOF'S COMMENTS ON DEAK AFFAIR WERE OBJECTIVE AND DISPASSIONATE. HE RECOGNIZES THAT LATEST DEVELOPMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN PERPETRATED BY HUNGARIAN ELEMENTS INTENT ON SABOTAGING EXCHANGES WITH US, AND HE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE CONTINUATION OF IREX PROGRAMS WITH HUNGARY. KASSOF NOTED HOWEVER THAT THERE MAY BE CONSIDERABLE SENTIMENT WITHIN IREX BOARD TO SUSPEND EXCHANGES UNLESS HUNGARIAN SIDE MAKES SOME GESTURE OF REGRET FOR RECENT INCIDENT. DEAK RETURNS TO NEW YORK JUNE 21 AND KASSOF MAY SCHEDULE MEETING OF IREX BOARD TO DISCUSS DEAK CASE AT END OF NEXT WEEK. KASSOF ALSO NOTED THAT DEPT OR EMB EFFORT TO OBTAIN SOME EXPRESSION OF REGRET FROM HUNGARIANS WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HIM IN HIS EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE IREX BOARD.

4. DEPTOFFS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IREX BOARD WOULD NOT TAKE PRECIPITATE ACTION AND URGED THAT IREX KEEP IN MIND ITS LONG RANGE GOALS OF CONTINUING AND EXPANDING EXCHANGES WITH EASTERN EUROPE. KASSOF AGREED AND NOTED THAT SUSPENSION OF IREX-HUNGARIAN PROGRAMS COULD RESULT IN INACTIVITY IN HUNGARIAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGES FOR PERIOD AS LONG AS FIVE YEARS. POSSIBLE COMPROMISE MOVE, WHICH MIGHT BE PROPOSED TO HEAD OFF A COMPLETE BREAK, WOULD BE TO CONTINUE CURRENT PROGRAMS, BUT NOT TO ADD NEW PROGRAMS.

5. COMMENT: WHILE SOME EXPRESSION OF REGRET ON PART OF HUNGARIAN AUTHORITIES AT THIS TIME MIGHT FORESTALL MOVE BY IREX BOARD TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH KKI, WE PREFER AWAIT RETURN OF DEAK TO US BEFORE RECOMMENDING ANY ACTION BY EMBASSY. WE WILL CALL DEAK ON HIS RETURN GET HIS REPORT, AND ASSESS SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION. IT MAY BE IN BEST INTERESTS OF ALL TO LET THE DUST SETTLE BEFORE DECIDING ON COURSE OF ACTION. SISCO

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